

high appreciation justly expressed of Dr. E. Burke Haywood's official career and his long continued service in the cause of charity, would seem to my friends and the public to set the seal of Executive approval to their course in acquitting me of the charges presented by the late conspiracy of subordinate officers in this institution.

But when it is perceived that these gentlemen and other members of the Board have been informed that under the technicalities of law they cannot serve as Directors of the Asylum and have no right farther to perform the duties of the same on the ground of holding such positions as Physician of the Deaf and Dumb, County Superintendent of Health and the like, coupled with the nomination to the vacancies made in this manner, of gentlemen well known to be hostile to me, such as Capt. Octavius Coke, the leader of a partisan movement in the Legislature of 1877, to deprive me of the position of Superintendent, because of my political affiliations, before assuming the control of this sacred charity, and of Thomas B. Womack, who does not scruple to accept place as a Director of this Asylum after having denounced me in a public meeting, and published over his own signature a scheme for my removal, the true intent and the political bearing of such appointments are revealed.

While appearing to compliment my friends, and indirectly, at least, to approve their official conduct by the tender of what might be regarded as promotion, the intent is, through some possible means, to reverse their action, and attain the ends of what has been converted into a semi-political persecution.

I am frank to say that the clamors of the ignorant and misled, under the tutelage of interested or of deeply prejudiced parties, would never have affected my resolution to retain my present position, under the control of any fair-minded Board, and especially of those gentlemen who have conducted its affairs for years with the most intimate knowledge of its history, and who honor me with their confidence and support to the present hour, as always heretofore.